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Vaccines & Immunizations

Programs & Tools:

VFC: Eligibility Criteria

Previously called: Eligibility Screening Documentation Requirements

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Eligibility Criteria

✱ **Children through 18 years of age who meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible to receive VFC vaccine:**

- ✓ • **Medicaid eligible:** A child who is **eligible** for the Medicaid program. (For the purposes of the **VFC** program, the terms "**Medicaid-eligible**" and "**Medicaid-enrolled**" are equivalent and refer to children who have health insurance covered by a state Medicaid program)
- ✓ • **Uninsured:** A child who has no health insurance coverage
- ✓ • **American Indian or Alaska Native:** As defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (**25 U.S.C. 1603**)
- ✓ • **Underinsured:** A child who has commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines (**VFC-eligible** for non-covered vaccines only), or a child whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured. **Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only through a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC).**

Children whose health insurance covers the cost of vaccinations are not **eligible** for **VFC** vaccines, even when a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible had not been met.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known as Title XXI, enables states to expand health insurance coverage for uninsured children. Title XXI children enrolled in a separate Children Health Insurance Program are not **VFC-eligible** because these children are considered insured. Title XXI children enrolled in a Medicaid-expansion CHIP program are Medicaid **eligible** and entitled to **VFC** program benefits. Some states have implemented their CHIP programs as a combination plan with some children becoming Medicaid **eligible** through an expansion plan and some children enrolled in a separate CHIP. The Medicaid-**eligible** children are entitled to **VFC** program benefits, and the children enrolled in the separate CHIP program are considered insured and are not entitled to **VFC** program benefits.

What is an FQHC?

An FQHC is a health center that is designated by the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) of the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) to provide health care to a medically underserved population. FQHCs include community and migrant health centers, special health facilities such as those for the homeless and persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) that receive grants under the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, and "look-alikes," which meet the qualifications but do not actually receive grant funds. They also include health centers within public housing and Indian health centers.

What is an RHC?

An RHC is a clinic located in a Health Professional Shortage Area, a Medically Underserved Area, or a Governor-Designated Shortage Area. RHCs are required to be staffed by physician assistants, nurse practitioners, or